

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application, with claims 1-4 rejected and claims 5-17 allowed. By this paper, claim 1 is amended leaving claims 2-17 unchanged.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Gardner et al. (U.S. Patent 4,854,832).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a valve for a gas-driven motor including a "shiftable valve having an annular front face with a cylindrically shaped valve projection located thereon and an annular rear face with a cylindrically shaped valve projection located thereon."

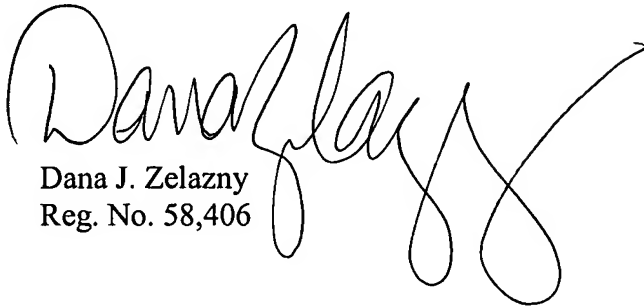
The shiftable valve provides a valve for a gas-driven motor that reduces ice build-up within, for example, a reciprocating pump. As the valve shifts, the cylindrically shaped valve projections are capable of seating in constricted regions of a pressure chamber, breaking up any ice that may have formed in the constricted region during the previous exhaust cycle. *See* Para. [0021].

In contrast, Gardner discloses an actuator 42 that is a cylindrical valve member having a first end surface 56 positioned within a constant diameter chamber 58 and an end surface 80 positioned within a chamber 82. *See* Col. 3, line 58 – Col. 4, line 10. As illustrated in Figs. 1-3, the first end surface 56 and the end surface 80 are flat. Therefore, Gardner fails to teach or suggest a shiftable valve having an annular front face with a cylindrically shaped valve projection located thereon and an annular rear face with a cylindrically shaped valve projection located thereon. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Dana J. Zelazny
Reg. No. 58,406

Docket No.: 010355-9125-00
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 3300
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
414.271.6560

T:\CLIENTA\010355\9125\A2217395.1